

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A packet forwarding system, comprising:
 - an input unit for inputting first data in ~~first~~-units of transmission;
 - a packet memory management unit for assembling the input first data into an Internet Protocol (IP) packet and loading the IP packet into a packet memory, and reading out an IP packet header and a pointer of an IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header;
 - a header processing unit for deciding a packet classification and a transmission destination by using the IP packet header provided from the packet memory management unit, and reporting to the packet memory management unit the pointer of the IP packet trailer to be connected to the IP packet header; and
 - an output unit for dividing the IP packet header and the IP packet trailer into second data in ~~second-said~~ units of transmission, the IP packet header being transmitted from the header processing unit, the IP packet trailer being read from the packet memory of the packet memory management unit and the reported pointer of the IP packet trailer to be connected to the IP packet header, and outputting the second data to a channel.

2. (currently amended): The packet forwarding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet memory management unit includes:

a packet generator for generating the IP packet from the input first data;

the packet memory comprising plural buffers loading the IP packet, and the plural buffers storing buffer attribute information and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header;

a transmission header queue for loading a pointer of the IP packet header corresponding to a transmission order of the IP packet; and

a controller for reading from the packet memory the IP packet header and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header, according to the transmission order determined by the transmission header queue, and transmitting the pointer of the IP packet trailer and the IP packet header to the header processing unit.

3. (previously presented): The packet forwarding system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller, if the IP packet header and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header are re-transmitted from the header processing unit, reads the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header from a buffer corresponding to the pointer of the IP packet trailer, and transmits the IP packet trailer to the output unit.

4. (original): The packet forward system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller verifies whether a different IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet trailer exists by using the buffer attribute information corresponding to the pointer of the IP packet trailer, and, if the different IP packet trailer exists, reading and transmitting the different IP packet trailer to the output unit.

5. (original): The packet forwarding system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the buffer attribute information includes a front pointer of a front buffer connected to a front of the buffer and a rear pointer of a rear buffer connected to a rear of the buffer, and information on whether a different IP packet trailer connected after the IP packet trailer, exists.

6. (currently amended): A packet forwarding method, comprising:
inputting first data in ~~first~~ units of transmission;
a packet memory management step of generating the input first data into an Internet Protocol (IP) packet and loading the IP packet into a packet memory, and reading out and sending an IP packet header and a pointer of an IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header;
a header processing step of deciding a packet classification and a transmission destination by using the IP packet header provided from a packet memory management unit, and reporting to

the packet memory management step the pointer of the IP packet trailer to be connected to the IP packet header; and

an output step for dividing the IP packet header and the IP packet trailer into second data in second-said units of transmission, the IP packet header being transmitted from the header processing step, the IP packet trailer being read from the packet memory of the packet memory management step and the reported pointer of the IP packet trailer to be connected to the IP packet header, and outputting the second data to a channel.

7. (currently amended): The packet forwarding method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the packet memory management step includes steps of:

assembling the input first data into the IP packet;
loading the IP packet into plural buffers, the plural buffers storing buffer attribute information and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header;
reading the IP packet header and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header according to a transmission order, and transmitting the pointer of the IP packet trailer and the IP packet header to the header processing step.

8. (previously presented): The packet forwarding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packet memory management step further includes a step of, if the IP packet header and the pointer of the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header are re-transmitted from

the header processing step, reading the IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header from a buffer corresponding to the pointer of the IP packet trailer, and transmitting the IP packet trailer to the output step.

9. (original): The packet forward method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packet memory management step verifies whether a different IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet trailer exists by using the buffer attribute information corresponding to the pointer of the IP packet trailer, and, if the different trailer exists, reading and transmitting the different IP packet trailer to the output step.

10. (original): The packet forwarding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the buffer attribute information includes a front pointer of a front buffer connected to a front of the buffer and a rear pointer of a rear buffer connected to a rear of the buffer, and information on whether the different IP packet trailer connected after the IP packet trailer exists.

11 - 14. (canceled).